Malaysian Government's offer for a Medical College in India

167. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Malaysian Government have approached the Government of India with an offer of an aid to establish a medical college;

(b) if so, what are the details of the offer; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Steps to popularise essential drug concept

168. SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Drug Action Network is popularising the essential drug concept to the people;

(b) whether Government have already prepared the list of essential drugs for that purpose; and

(c) what are the ways and means adopted by Government to popularise those essential drugs even to the rural population to avoid use of adulteration and out-dated medicine?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Various consumer group associations at different forums have emphasized the need to popularise the concept of essential drugs and their utilisation to the people.

(b) and (c) The Government have prepared the list of drugs meant to be utilized at various peripheral levels such as Primary Health Centres etc. which mainly cater to the rural population. These lists are quite restrictive in nature and certain drugs needed for the majority of the population.

Setting up of a committee on drugs

169. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a committee to find out irrational combinations of drugs and harmful drugs being marketed in the country;

(b) if so, by when such a committee is likely to be set up;

(c) what is the number of harmful drugs and irrational combinations of drugs being marketed in the country at present; and

(d) what steps have been taken to ban them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Sub-Committee of Drugs Consultative Committee has been constituted to review drugs moving in the market from the angle of rationality and harmfulness.

(c) and (d) As and when suggestions regarding harmful/irrational combinations are received, these are examined by the sub-committee and action initiated to prohibit them from being manufactured and sold if they are considered irrational or harmful.

On the advice of Drugs Technical Advisory Board, so far 26 categories of Drugs and drugs combinations have been prohibited from manufacture and sale by the Government.

Information bulletins in medicine package

170. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2377